



PRESS RELEASE

COUNCIL PRESIDENT BEN HUESO

Eighth District

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For Immediate Release

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HOUSING HELP HERE

The San Diego Housing Commission and Housing Opportunities Collaborative Will Provide “One Stop Shop” Resource for Housing Information beginning July 1, 2009

SAN DIEGO – With job losses increasing, frightening foreclosure news stories, mortgage fraud on the upswing, and ill-informed renters unsure about their rights as tenants, too many San Diegans, at all income levels and throughout the city, have trouble staying in their homes.

To help City residents, Council President Ben Hueso envisioned a “one-stop shop” where San Diegans could access information and referrals on a wide range of housing issues. To bring his conception to life, Hueso facilitated an innovative partnership between the San Diego Housing Commission and Housing Opportunities Collaborative which allows each of these award-winning organizations to serve a broader base of clients while meeting a growing need in our city. “People who are at risk of losing their homes, whether they own or rent, may not know what to do or who to call,” said Council President Ben Hueso. “Once they connect *Housing Help Here*, they will be able to make better decisions because they will have a better understanding of their options.”

The San Diego Housing Commission’s Rick Gentry has agreed to provide space - rent free - at the agency’s headquarters located at 1122 Broadway, San Diego. Housing Opportunities Collaborative Executive Director Appaswamy “Vino” Pajanor will provide staff necessary to serve the public. The space is currently unfinished; it will cost \$180,000 to convert the space. Council President Ben Hueso, together with Councilmembers Tony Young and Marti Emerald will share the construction costs involved equally.

“I feel that having a “one stop shop” will provide a central location for homeowners to access accurate information and assistance from two of the pioneer organizations,” said Councilmember Tony Young. “I have supported the efforts of the Housing Opportunities Collaborative and the Housing Commission and feel confident that centralizing their efforts will be beneficial to all.”

Housing Help Here will be open to the public on July 1, 2009. In the meantime, consumers can get the help they need by contacting the Housing Opportunities Collaborative directly at 619.283.2200.

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